



Saturday, May 19th. 2018

The Hot Fingers with Emily Campbell

- it's the font of all knowledge - some would say !

Once again we had a largish gathering of around eighty people for our Concert by the Ragtime Band last month. This somewhat exclusive Dove combination contains personnel from far and wide and has been put together by your committee to perform on the Dove stage for almost 20 years now. During its long shelf life it has seen a few changes to the musicians in its ranks but has managed to retain a core of loyal devotees.

According to my records it was in 2007 that the musically accomplished Buxton born Tom Langham first brought a band bearing the name of 'Hot Fingers' to Dove's Village Hall. The other two musicians who accompanied Tom on that historic trip were Dany Blythe and Malcolm Stead who remain with him today. It was not until 2015 that the noted **songstress, Emily Campbell** joined the ranks of these three long standing chums to immediately push their marks for 'Desirability' off the scale. It was beneficial for these three lads to be introduced to someone from a more sophisticated rural up market environment that aptly reflected their chosen surroundings in the heart of the Cotswolds. It was his grandfather who inspired a young **Tom** to start playing the **ukulele** as soon as his fingers were large enough. He picked up the **guitar, banjo and vocal** skills very early on in his eventful musical journey along life's highway. He can proudly boast to be one of only a miniscule number of today's performers of a similar ilk who have so deeply absorbed the panache of those early crooning pioneers such as Al Bowly and Bing Crosby to name but two.

Malcolm Sked for his sins was a schoolboy **euphonium** player who joined the local brass band at the age of 13. He joined the Charleston Chasers at the age of 16, where he very soon came under the influence of an equally youthful Spats, for a 15 year stint on **tuba** and later on **sousaphone**. In 2000 he transferred his skills to Bob Kerr's Whoopee Band with whom he toured extensively around Europe. His remarkable ear for harmony along with the odd racing tip

contributes to him being equally proficient on the **string bass** as well these days. Of course **Danny Blythe** the other **multi instrument** proficient musician in this esteemed group has risen from humble beginnings as an Acupuncturist, or should the word be Acupunkturist, in leafy Cheltenham to join his good friend Tom on the front line of this unique musical troupe. Both Malcolm and Danny have greatly benefitted from being regular attendees a few years ago at Moreten-in-Marsh's little known Stockwell's not quite Royal Academy of Musical Miscellany. It was here under the shadows of the cheap, free standing wooden wardrobes that were ram-jam full of old records and woodworm that their abundant musical skills came under the skilful guidance of the Langham batten. Of course the woodworm provided a captive audience for the music from these 'musos' who have always favoured the 'Classic Sounds' of yesteryear. Yes, it will be a much anticipated real delight to welcome back Tom Langham's Hot Fingers with Emily Campbell for the first of their two Gigs at Dove this year. The same line-up will be making a return visit to us on the 17th November to provide further musical treats for the discerning ears of a Dove audience.

Alongside our usual barrel of flavoursome real ale with a goodly head we will of course have the famed Butcher Burnham's Pork Pies on sale as usual for the amazingly modest price of only £1-50 Your loose change will be most welcome in the raffle pot when you will have a reasonable chance of winning a top shelf prize. Saturday the 16th June is the date of our next Concert at your Club when Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants will have Paul Harrison as their celebrated guest reeds player returning to the Dove Podium after an absence for a number of years that may well be approaching twenty! I am almost sure that he last demonstrated his considerable skills here with Phil Mason's All Stars. It goes without saying that we would be delighted to have you join us for what promises to be yet another evening of quality musical entertainment. RTM

Our next attraction - June 16th. 2018

Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Giants

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